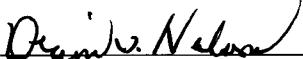


PATENT APPLICATION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent and Trademark Office as an electronic filing via Patent Electronic Filing System (EFS) addressed to: Commissioner for Patents on April 28, 2008.


Diane S. Nelson, Paralegal

April 28, 2008
(Date Signed)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Yohannes Tesfaigzi, et al.

Serial No.: 10/567,876

Filed: February 8, 2006

For: METALLOPROTEINASE GENE
POLYMORPHISM IN COPD

Examiner: Jeanine Anne Goldberg

Group Art Unit: 1634

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action of March 28, 2008, requiring restriction to one of 4 different inventions identified by the Examiner as:

Group I, claims 2-9, drawn to a method of determining susceptibility to COPD using nucleic acid analysis.

Group II, claim 10, drawn to a method of determining susceptibility to COPD using protein analysis.

Group III, claims 11-17, drawn to a method of determining the efficacy of a substrate to inhibit the 279ARG MMP-9 enzyme.

Group IV, claims 18-19, drawn to a method for treating a patient with COPD with a MMP-9 inhibitor.